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# The Classmate: Officer Students' Wives' Club Magazine / Vol.26, no.10 (December 1985)

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VOLUME 26, NO. 10

December 1985

OFFICER STUDENTS' WIVES' CLUB MAGAZINE

# the classmate





*“Peace on Earth  
Good Will T’ward Men”*



*Merry Christmas  
From The Classmate Staff*

# the classmate

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## HOLIDAY TRADITIONS

**On the Cover:** "Kneeling Santa" - photo by CDR Mike Anderson. Special thanks to Lolita Shaw, Marty Anderson, and Minna Grafton for their help in making this picture possible.



# Editorially Speaking



by Debbie Schlechte

Time passes so quickly. I honestly can't believe my term is over and this is my last issue as *The Classmate* Editor. (While we were working on the double issue I thought it would NEVER end.) As I reflect over the last six months as Editor, I realize that I have so many things to be thankful for. The staff has been wonderful and so faithful. It was so nice to see your smiling faces and to have your support on Wednesday nights. I appreciate every one of you.

Andi and Margie, you have done such a wonderful job with production. You have put in so many hours cutting, taping, marking, and organizing. You'll never know how much I appreciate you!

Joyce, thanks for reading all of the articles over and over and over again. You have made my job so much easier by being an excellent copy editor.

Judy and Kathy, thanks for making all those phone calls!

Carla, Donnarae, Laurie, Rebecca, and Cindy, thanks for helping me get the magazines distributed. We lifted some heavy boxes and squeezed through some tight corners in the mail-room together. The personnel in the

Office of Correspondence, Public Affairs, and Military Operations were helpful too. Thanks for greeting Jennifer so warmly every time we came to visit.

Many, many thanks to all of the writers who submitted the many informative, professional, interesting, and fun articles. *The Classmate* is no longer hurting for articles and that's one of the things I wanted to accomplish during my term. Don't let me forget the talented artists and photographers that helped make the front covers so professional looking!

My advisors have been very supportive and understanding. I have been an advisor for various organizations myself, and I know that the hardest thing to do is to sit back and let someone run free with their ideas. Thanks for all the pats on the back. They always came at the right time.

Thanks also goes to the staff at Herald Printers. Pam, for working on the ads and for staying on to help Barby. Ron, Brian, Dick and Dennis, for the great camera work, the neat paste-up and the care you took with the cover photos. Jennifer and I have seen you guys so much in the last six months she even speaks to you now. . . . Maureen and Joanie, thanks for playing with Jennifer and for giving her little "presents" while I worked on the magazine. She almost felt too comfortable there . . . and Marianne, you can type so fast and you are so sweet! Thanks for being patient with me and for caring. It was nice having a "Southerner" to work with.

A special thanks to my friends and neighbors, the Protestant Chapel, the Choir, and others who took the time to call, write an encouraging note, or just ask how everything was going. Some days I needed all the compliments, encouraging words, and hugs I could get.

I'll never be able to express my gratitude to my husband, Gene, and my little girl, Jennifer. You are so wonderful!!! You have been my comfort, and my strength through it all. I thank

the good Lord for you every day, and I thank Him for giving me the strength, the patience and the courage to be Editor.

I also want to express my deepest appreciation to everyone for the cards, flowers, meals, prayers, and help with Jennifer during my sudden illness. I especially want to thank Andi and Joyce for taking care of the magazine and for being there when I needed you most. You are going to be great editors one day!

Holiday traditions is the focus this month and just thinking about it makes visions of sugarplums dance in my head. Jennifer is going to be so much fun this year and with Santa paying us a visit it's going to be great! The Schlechte camera crew will be out in full force. Gene can't wait for the baking frenzy to start either. It's like a bakery around here for weeks. I can't wait to catch Gene and Jennifer under the Christmas tree shaking presents. I've really fooled them this year! Ooh, I just love to be sneaky!

As the holidays approach I hope you all will travel safely. To those of you leaving for new duty stations, take special care. I've heard that moves during Christmas are the toughest. You newly arrived families take advantage of the breaks and go see some of the sites. It may be a while before you can take advantage of the skiing without the pressures of papers to write . . . midterms to prepare . . . (That phrase was for all of you Cramalot freaks.)

Many thanks to the **International** families that graciously shared their Holiday Traditions with us.

Good Luck to Judy Scalzitti, next month's new *Classmate* Editor.

Thanks goes to JO2 Mary Reed (PAO) for the Navy Ball pictures in the November issue.

God Bless All of You and ENJOY your holiday traditions this year more than ever before! □



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



by Linda Denny

Holiday Tradition? It can wreak havoc with an uprooted military family from different parts of the country!

It reminds me of the song - "He likes potatoes and I like potatoes. He likes tomatoes and I like tomatoes..."

Like the song suggests, the Denny family was torn between two close-knit families with strong Holiday traditions.

"He's from St. Louis, while she's

from Maryland."

*Thanksgiving* - "He likes plain roasted turkey, sausage dressing, lots of mashed potatoes with gravy, and whole cranberry sauce, while she likes turkey roasted with bacon on top, oyster stuffing, sweet potatoes, no gravy, jellied cranberry sauce and sauerkraut on the side."

*Christmas Eve* - "He likes Chicken and Dumplings, while she likes Beef Tenderloin." "As a child, he gave cookies and milk to Santa and a carrot to the reindeer, then Santa ate all the cookies and drank all the milk, and the carrot was trailed through the house and out the door, while she gave Santa just one cookie and one glass of milk, no carrot for the reindeer, and Santa ate just one bite of the cookie and drank just one sip of milk, because he doesn't have time for the whole thing!"

*Christmas Morning* - "He likes eggs served with biscuits and gravy, while she likes Maryland crab quiche served with apricot bread."

*Christmas Tree* - "He likes a Spruce Pine tree, while she likes a Scotch Pine

tree." "He likes big twinkling lights, while she likes little, untwinkling lights." "He likes a lighted star on the top of the tree, while she likes an angel." "He likes his grade school decorations on the tree, while she likes all the prized decorations collected over the years on the tree."

*New Year's Eve* - "He likes to bring in the New Year with a few close friends at home, while she likes to dress up, go out dancing and bring in the New Year, singing Old Lang Syne."

*Saint Patrick's Day* - "He's Irish and likes Corned Beef and Cabbage, while she learned quickly how to cook Corned Beef and Cabbage!"

Over twelve years of marriage and compromising, we now have our very own Holiday family traditions . . .

Holiday traditions need no compromise in OSWC. The Annual Christmas on the Quarterdeck, Santa Visits, and Children's Christmas Party are traditions that will continue to delight all of us year after year after year!

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR! ☐

### THE OSWC IS THE OFFICIAL STUDENTS' WIVES CLUB OF THE NAVAL POSTGRADUATE SCHOOL FOR THE WIVES OF ALL STUDENTS.

In addition to sponsoring monthly activities such as luncheons, the Art Auction, etc., they also sponsor small group activities. Dues collected entitle you to members' discounts on classes, having your name printed in the OSWC Directory and the monthly issue of the Pink Flyer. Dues are \$2 per quarter. You may pay for one quarter at a time or for the whole time you will be here. To obtain membership, fill out the form below and send it with a check made out to OSWC to: Janis Lafont, 1075 Spruance Rd., Monterey, CA 93940. Phone 373-3170, SMC #2723.

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OSWC NEWS....OSWC NEWS....OSWC NEWS....OSWC NEWS....

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q



## NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK

by Sandy Falby

A son, **Patrick William**, born on March 31, 1985, 7 lbs., 6 oz. to Cathy and John McMahon.

A daughter, **Brittney Ann**, born June 14, 1985, 7 lbs., 6 oz. to Mike and Linda Conklin.

A son, **Thomas Joseph III (T.J.)**, born June 29, 1985, 8 lbs., 9 oz. to Holly and Thomas Frey.

A son, **Jeffrey Gordon**, born July 18, 1985, 8 lbs., 10 oz. to Robert and Patricia Gillespie.

A daughter, **Devon Elizabeth**, born July 23, 1985 6 lbs., 11 oz. to Chuck and Becky Barker.

A son, **Ian Broughton**, born August 2, 1985, 8 lbs., to Linda and Sherman Curtis.

A son, **Steven Roy**, born August 4, 1985, 7 lbs., 14 oz. to Joan and David Gillard

A son, **Michael John**, born August 6, 1985, 7lbs., 10 oz. to Simon and Anne Taylor.

A son, **Andrew Devin**, born August 15, 1985, 9 lbs., to Jim and Connie Drake.

A son, **Matthew Joseph**, born October 2, 1985, 8 lbs., 10 oz. to Michael and Lois Molitor.

A daughter, **Cassi Louise**, born October 7, 1985, 6 lbs., 13 oz. to Anne and Steven Anderson.

A daughter, **Megan Brittany**, born October 12, 1985, 8 lbs., 1 oz. to Debbie and Michael Crouch.


A son, **Christopher Alan**, born October 14, 1985, 8 lbs., 8 oz. to Frank and Kimberly Kelbe.

A son, **Daniel Joseph**, born October 25, 1985, 8 lbs., 3 oz. to Lynn and Tim Dowding.

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# MINI-CLASSES

by Marilyn Grodek



If you are interested in teaching a course, contact Marilyn Grodek at 372-9031. If you are interested in taking a course, call the instructors listed below.

## NEW CLASSES

**Improving Your Image Through Speech** – Vicki Madigan (375-3762). Through this course you will learn to gain control of your voice, your body, and your natural stress so that you feel comfortable in any speaking arena. This class will broaden your understanding and increase your awareness of what effective speaking means and what goals you should set for yourself when you speak, this while emphasizing the use of the voice as an enhancement of self-expression and communication. Analysis and diagnosis of individual pupil's voice quality will be administered. Four two-hour classes. Class fee: \$35.

**Private Art Instruction** – Don Mathews (373-7809). We meet in my Monterey studio/home or your home and design a program to meet your specific needs. Typically when we meet I review your work, give instruction, and provide demonstration as required. Class fee: \$12/hour.

**Smocking** – Katie DuBois (375-8602). Learn basic and intermediate smocking stitches by creating an Heirloom Christmas ornament. Class fee: \$20.

**Stenciling** – Vicky Fenton (649-4877). A three-hour class in which students will learn the folk art of stenciling. The class includes a brief history of stenciling, paint mixing, stencil cutting, and stenciling techniques and application. Students must bring an 8" x 11" piece of glass and an exacto knife. All other materials will be provided. Class fee: \$10.

**Violin Lessons** – Sally O'Dwyer (372-5492). Children and adults. Learn to play a glorious classical instrument and appreciate music. Class fee: \$5.

## CURRENT CLASSES

**Advanced Exercise Class** – Lisa Hegland (375-5806).

**Beginner's Floor Exercise** – Lisa Hegland (375-5806).

**Beginner's Sampler Quilting Class** – Pat Webb (375-8125).

**Beginning Sewing** – Virginia Sycuro (649-0530).

**Beginning Stained Glass** – "Sun Catchers" – Virginia Sycuro (649-0530).

**Children's Creative Dance** – Terri Grimshaw (624-3799).

**Country Coverlets** – Susan Darabond (372-9238).

**Creative Inner Explorations** – Don Mathews (373-7809).

**Crochet** – Robin Phares (375-7853).

**Drawing & Painting Techniques for the Emerging Artist** – Don Mathews (373-7809).

**Early Parenting** – Barbara Dickinson (375-2587).

**Exercise Class** – Donna Staniec (373-6626).

**Hula/Polynesian Dancing** – LaVerne Howard (373-5301).

**Japanese Floral Art** – Suzi Miller (372-4189).

**Jogging Clinic (Beginners)** – Cheryl Sandvigen (372-6579).

**Needlepoint** – Sally Dewey (624-2250).

**Net Darning** – Susan Darabond (372-9238).

**Piano** – Kazuko Mockett (624-9596).

**Piano** – Nathalie Plotkin (373-5671).

**Scherenschnitte (German Scissor Cutting)** – Susan Darabond (372-9238).

**Shape Your Size** – Bonnie Himes (649-8886).

**Suzuki Violin & Viola Lessons** – Mildred Kline (624-9541).

**Tennis Instruction** – Karen Stewart (373-3437).

**The Joy Of Art For Beginners** – Don Mathews (373-7809).

**The Joy Of Art Outside** – Don Mathews (373-7809).

**Tole Painting** – Selma Moskowitz (373-5064).

## TUTORS

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**Tutoring** – Jean Setzer (373-7840).



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# Stormy Weather

by Ann Malokas



*Christmas is coming . . .* which, of course, isn't news to military families who are, **THIS YEAR**, going to beat the post office deadlines (but somehow still find themselves 44th in line on December 15 and are Federal Express' best customers on the 23rd.)

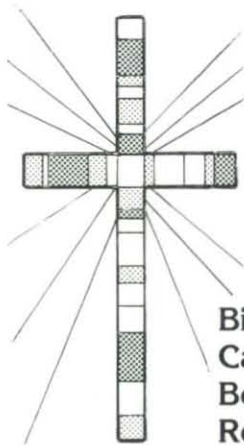
*Christmas is coming . . .* and right along with it, the search and rescue missions to unearth approved mailing cartons. (Show me someone who isn't on the lookout for promising mailing cartons, and I'll show you a civilian!) At least one family I know and love first gets its hands on the packing materials, then finds suitable gifts to fit in

appropriate containers. We seek out not only gifts that fit the wants, needs and personality of the recipient; we seek out not only tokens that fit our budget; we need something to fit in a box that once housed a swivel desk lamp or a chrome coffee thermos.

Speaking of these boxes with former lives . . . if our families and friends paid attention they would discover a great deal about our life in 1985 just from unwrapping — then I wouldn't have to put those chatty notes on our Christmas cards. They would know in a snap that in the past year we purchased a First Alert smoke alarm, eight 8-ounce

cut glass tumblers, a steam iron, hiking boots from L.L. Bean, a Waring blender, pears from the Fruit-of-the-Month Club, a set of encyclopedias, a 5¼ inch disk drive, 75 Hershey bars, a multifunction telephone with three-party conferencing and an 18 number memory, a dozen canning jars, (and we won't mention which ones we stole from the dumpster behind the fancy shopping mall.)

*Christmas is coming . . .* the wish book arrived on our doorstep in late September and has been so thoroughly pawed and thumbed we really should put the poor thing out of its misery. Erin started the wishing marathon by putting an aqua blue check mark by those items she was wishing for on one Thursday afternoon. PJ quickly followed, making an x in green. By Friday morning, Erin's needs had changed, as indicated by a tiny red circle, PJ's by a black square. By Saturday, it was Erin: purple asterisk,



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PJ: orange triangle. At the end of the week when every marker color had been exhausted and every single toy in the catalog marked for demolition, a new system of classification was devised. One particular mark meant the children, really, really, really, truly wanted an item and might, in fact, feel unfit to face life if the particular piece of colored plastic did not enter their lives. Another mark meant no life or death involved but because we are such wonderful parents, and they are such terrific children, of course we would feel guilty as all get out if we were to deprive them of the same. Mark three meant we could leave out the item if our van was already full to the brim, but they knew we could figure out a way past this problem . . . and on, and on . . . Mark 27 meant just in case we won the Publisher's Clearing House Sweepstakes and had millions to get rid of, the little dears would be glad to help us part with some of it.

Our teenager's opinion of this ritual (one in which he once participated to the fullest extent) is total disdain for this childish, foolish, waste of time. His method of wishing is straight from the 80's: a computer printout list of his heart's desires, able to be reproduced into multi-copies, easy to distribute to family members far and near at the push of a button.

*Christmas is coming . . .* although we've been hearing carols in the shopping mall for weeks, we are suddenly singing along.

*Christmas is coming . . .* on those rare occasions when we have time to take a deep breath, wow, the fragrances. Ginger. Pine. Bayberry. Burning logs.

*Christmas is coming . . .* the scouts are caroling outside tonight.

*Christmas is coming . . .* cards from friends all over the world are coming in each day's mail.

*Christmas is coming . . .* the children are whispering and giggling and smiling. Their mom and dad are too!

*Christmas is coming . . .* NEATO! ☐

## La Mesa PTA News

"Computerized Christmas" will be a special Christmas program sponsored by the newly formed La Mesa chorus. Under the direction of Mrs. Sara Russell, 4th and 5th grade members of the

chorus will sing and entertain you in this lively Christmas presentation. Thursday, December 12th is the date and 7:00 p.m. is the time. We hope you'll be there.



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# NAVY BLEU

Get out the Christmas china and light the candles!!! It's time for a Christmas Open House. If you're tired of serving cookies and light appetizers, try some of these favorite make-ahead recipes for a memorable evening of heavy hors d'oeuvres.

## Sausage Tidbits

### Little Smokies by Oscar Mayer (3-4 per person)

#### 1 lb. apple butter

Cook smoked link sausages in frying pan. Place in casserole. Pour apple butter in frying pan. It will absorb the sausage juice. Then pour it over the sausage. Warm in the oven until bubbly. Keep warm in a chafing dish and serve with toothpicks.

## Egg Rolls

- 1 cup cooked lean pork, finely diced
- 1/2 cup celery, finely diced
- 1/4 cup cooked ham or chicken, finely diced
- 1/4 cup water chestnuts, finely diced
- 1/4 cup bamboo shoots, finely diced
- 1 Tbsp. soy sauce
- 2 Tbsp. green onions, minced
- Wonton wrappers (small)
- Oil for frying
- 1 egg, beaten

Mix the egg and the remaining ingredients except for the oil and wonton wrappers. Place 1 tablespoon filling in wonton wrapper and roll into finger-sized rolls. Seal edges with a bit of water and press with a fork to seal. Chill. Before serving, brown in 2" hot oil. Serve with sweet and sour sauce or hot mustard.

## Sweet and Sour Sauce

- 2 tsp. cornstarch
- 2 tsp. soy sauce
- 1/2 cup vinegar
- 1/4 cup brown sugar
- 1/4 cup granulated sugar

Blend ingredients in double boiler and stir constantly until thickened. Serve warm or cool.

## Hot Mustard

- 1/2 cup mustard
  - 1 tsp. horseradish
  - 2 Tbsp. half and half
- Mix well and serve.

## Swedish Meatballs

- 1 lb. lean ground beef
- 1/2 lb. ground chuck
- 1/2 cup minced onion
- 3/4 cup fine, dry bread crumbs
- 1 Tbsp. minced parsley
- 1 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/8 tsp. pepper
- 1 tsp. Worcestershire sauce
- 1 egg
- 1/2 cup milk

Mix ingredients and shape into small meatballs. Brown in 1/2 cup hot oil. Remove meatballs and make gravy. Return meatballs to gravy and cook 15-20 minutes. Serve warm in a chafing dish.

## Gravy

- 1/4 cup flour
- 1 tsp. paprika
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/8 tsp. pepper
- 2 cups boiling water
- 3/4 cup sour cream

Stir first 4 ingredients into hot oil left from browning the meatballs. Stir in the hot water and sour cream. Simmer until thickened and smooth. Add meatballs.

## Miniature Chicken Drumsticks

- 30 chicken wings
- 2 Tbsp. salad oil
- 1/2 cup soy sauce
- 1/3 cup dry cooking sherry
- 1/4 cup catsup
- 2 Tbsp. sugar
- 1/4 tsp. ground ginger

Cut wing tips off at joint and cut each wing in half. In a 5 quart Dutch oven, over high heat, in hot salad oil, stir fry chicken wings about 7 minutes. Reduce to medium heat; add remaining ingredients. Stir to blend well. Cover and cook 25 minutes longer, stirring occasionally. Uncover and cook 10 minutes longer, stirring frequently until all liquid is absorbed and chicken is ten-

der. Cover and refrigerate. Can be served chilled or warm in a chafing dish.

## Crab Puffs

- 1 cup water
- 1/2 cup butter
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 1 cup flour
- 4 eggs

Combine water, butter, and salt in medium saucepan; bring mixture to a boil. Reduce heat to low, add flour and stir vigorously until mixture leaves sides of pan and forms a smooth ball. Remove from heat and allow to cool. Add eggs, one at a time, beating with a wooden spoon after each mixture. Beat until smooth. Drop dough by rounded teaspoon 2" apart on cookie sheet. Bake at 400° for 25 minutes or until golden brown and puffed. Cool.

## Filling

- 1 (7 1/2) can crabmeat, drained and flaked
- 1/2 cup shredded sharp cheddar cheese
- 3 green onions, chopped
- 1/3 cup chopped celery
- 1/3 cup chopped green pepper
- Mayonnaise

Mix all ingredients with mayonnaise until moistened.

Cut off top of each pastry puff; pull out and discard the soft dough inside. Fill each pastry shell with about 1 Tbsp. crab filling. Then cover with pastry top.

(Can be refrigerated and reheated)

## Stuffed Mushrooms

- 1/2 lb. fresh mushrooms
- 1/2 cup butter
- 1/2 cup minced onion
- 1 Tbsp. minced garlic
- 2 Tbsp. chopped parsley
- 3/4 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. oregano
- 1/2 cup bread crumbs
- 1/4 cup Parmesan cheese

Remove stems from mushrooms; finely chop the stems and reserve the caps. Melt butter and cook mushroom stems, onions, and next 4 ingredients



## ....FEATURES....FEATURES....

until onions are tender. Stir in bread crumbs and cheese. Spoon mixture into mushroom caps. Place in broiling pan and broil 8 minutes.

### Sweet and Sour Meatballs

- 2 lbs. lean ground beef
- 1 cup fine bread crumbs
- 1/2 cup parsley flakes
- 2 Tbsp. soy sauce
- 3 eggs
- 1/2 tsp. garlic salt
- 1/2 tsp. pepper
- 2 Tbsp. minced onions
- 1/3 cup catsup
- 1 (16 oz.) can jellied cranberry sauce
- 1 (12 oz.) bottle chili sauce
- 2 Tbsp. brown sugar
- 2 Tbsp. lemon juice

Mix first 9 ingredients and make small meatballs. Bake on a baking sheet in 450° oven for 10 minutes or until lightly browned. Make sauce while meatballs are in the oven. Heat in a 2 quart saucepan on medium heat, the cranberry sauce, chili sauce, brown sugar, and lemon juice. When blended and smooth, pour over the meatballs in a casserole and bake 30 minutes at 350°. Serve warm in a chafing dish.

### Quick and Simple Cheese Fondue

- 2 cans cheddar cheese soup
- 1/3 cup white wine

### Worcestershire sauce to taste

Combine all ingredients in saucepan over medium heat. DO NOT BOIL!! When heated, pour into a fondue dish and serve with cubes of French bread.

To round out the heavy hors d'oeuvres, don't forget the deviled eggs, sliced ham and roast beef for sandwiches on party breads, and the various cheeses with a variety of crackers.

Our 12-year-old son thinks no holiday meal is complete without his father's **Parker House Rolls**. He even begs for them all the time. Dad does try to make some and we freeze them. They are very good reheated. Thank goodness for that because no kitchen is big enough for two cooks at once.

- 2 pkgs. active dry yeast
- 1 Tbsp. sugar



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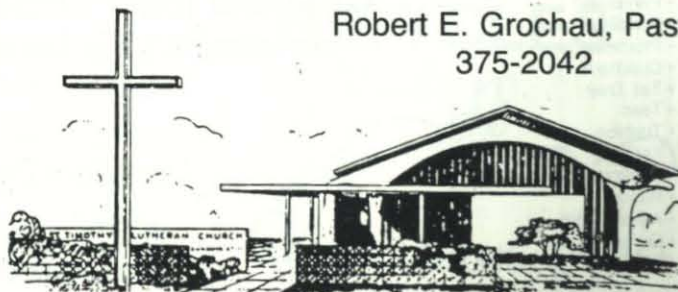
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**1/2 cup warm water**  
**1/2 stick butter**  
**2 cups warm milk**  
**5-6 cups unbleached all purpose flour**  
**2 tsp. salt**  
**1/4-1/2 cup melted butter**  
**1 egg, beaten with 2 Tbsp. milk**

Dissolve yeast and sugar in warm water and allow to proof. Melt 1/2 stick butter in warm milk, then combine the yeast mixture in a large mixing bowl. Mix 2-3 cups of flour with the salt and stir, 1 cup at a time, into the yeast mixture. Beat vigorously to make a wet, sticky mixture. Cover the bowl with plastic wrap and allow it to rise until doubled in bulk – about 1 hour. Stir it down and add 2 more cups of flour, 1 cup at a time, to make it so that it can be kneaded easily. Turn onto a lightly floured board and knead until smooth. Let it set for a few minutes and then form it into a ball. Put it in a buttered bowl and toss around until all surfaces are coated with butter. Cover with plastic wrap and allow it to double in bulk once again. Punch the dough down with your fist and roll out to a thickness of 1/2 inch. Cut out rounds of dough 2-2 1/2 inches. Brush the center with melted butter. Take a pencil and make a deep indentation in the center without breaking the dough. Fold over 1/3 of each round and press down to seal. Place on a buttered baking sheet about

1/2 inch apart. Brush again with butter and allow the rolls to rise one more time until doubled in size. They will probably touch so do not get alarmed. Brush with the egg white mixture and bake in a preheated 375 degree oven for 20 minutes or until lightly browned!! "Delicious!" say children and friends!!!

**Beverly Johnston's Grandma's Egg Nog (the best I've tasted)**

**18 eggs, separated**  
**1 lb. powdered sugar**  
**2 quarts whipping cream**  
**1 fifth bourbon**

Beat egg whites until stiff and add 1/2 cup powdered sugar SLOWLY, set aside. Whip cream until stiff (use large bowl so all other ingredients will fit in it). Beat egg yolks until smooth and creamy in a separate bowl. Add balance of sugar SLOWLY. Then put in whiskey by DROPS as the whiskey cooks the eggs. If you put the whiskey in too fast, it makes the egg run also. Last, put into whipped cream by folding in the yolks and then the beaten egg whites. NEVER STIR . . . ALWAYS FOLD into cream. When serving, go to the bottom of the bowl with the ladle and come up with a full dip. If you stir, it may separate. Some people like grated nutmeg sprinkled over it as it is served! IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT YOU FOLLOW DIRECTIONS CAREFULLY!!! THIS IS TIME CONSUMING, SO DO NOT

WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE!!! IT IS WELL WORTH ALL THE EFFORT!!!!

**Wassail**

**1 gallon apple cider**  
**1 quart unsweetened tea**  
**1/4 cup sugar**  
**3 small oranges**  
**1 1/2 tsp. whole cloves**

Combine first 3 ingredients in a large Dutch oven. Stud oranges with cloves and add to cider mixture. Bring mixture to a boil; reduce heat and simmer uncovered for 30 minutes. Serve hot.

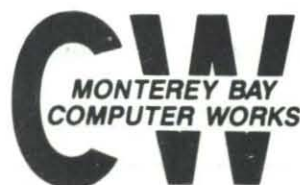
**Date Rolls**

**1 stick butter**  
**1 cup brown sugar**  
**1 small package dates, chopped**  
**2 cups Rice Krispies**  
**1 cup pecans**  
**1/2 cup grated coconut**  
**Powdered sugar**

In double boiler, place butter, sugar, and dates. Cook until melted and boiling lightly (about 5-6 minutes). Pour this mixture over the other ingredients (already combined). When cooled, shape into little balls and roll in powdered sugar to coat thoroughly.

If you think that there is not enough goodies, add your favorites. Have a wonderful open house.

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# CHILDREN'S CORNER

by Joyce Mansell Glover

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Blitzen Santa Claus Bows

### Cut and Color



"Mom, do you think Santa will bring me a telescope? I mailed my list in September. Is that enough time?" asked Sabastian. He was so excited that he would be able to watch Halley's Comet this year. A telescope was all he wanted so he would be able to see the comet better.

Meanwhile, at the North Pole, Donner and Blitzen had come down with Reindeer Flu. They were very sick. Their noses were hot. Their eyes were red. Their fevers made them shiver. Santa and Mrs. Claus covered them with blankets and gave them a lot of water to drink, but there was nothing more that could be done.

"Donner, Blitzen," said Santa, "I'm afraid you won't be able to fly with us this year."

"Santa!" Three elves came running up to Santa. They looked worried. "Santa, all the other reindeer are sick now. Every one except Comet." The three elves went running; one for more blankets, one for more water, and one for more hay to help make the sick reindeer's beds more comfortable.

Santa walked up to Comet. "Well, Comet," he said. "This is a very big job for just one reindeer. Do you think you can pull that big sleigh all by yourself?"

Comet snorted and nodded his head. "Ho, Ho, Ho! That's the spirit," said Santa. But as Santa patted Comet

on the side, there was a tiny little shiver. He felt Comet's nose. It felt a little warm. "Oh, Comet. You've got the flu too." Santa was worried but told Comet, "You must think about getting better. You won't be able to pull the sleigh after all."

Santa went outside to walk in the snow and think. He saw the workshop. All the toys were ready and put into his big bag. The empty sleigh had been pulled into position, ready to load. But with no reindeer to pull the sleigh . . . "Oh, Comet," said Santa. Then he looked up and shouted, "COMET! Mrs. Claus, get my suit ready. I shall deliver my toys after all."

That night, when Santa was ready, Mrs. Claus and all the elves gathered out front. They did not know what

Santa could be thinking. How would he deliver the toys? As they watched, Santa came from the barn with Comet by his side.

"Santa," said Mrs. Claus. "He's ill and shouldn't."

"It's all right," said Santa. "He thinks he can give me a little lift. Hand me Sabastian's telescope. I want to carry it personally."

Santa flung the large bag on his back, mounted Comet and up they went. Soon, Comet was back—alone.

"Where's Santa?" Everybody was confused. Comet looked up and everyone followed his gaze. There was Santa, way up in the sky, riding on Halley's Comet. As they watched they could distinctly hear, "Ho, Ho, Ho. Merry Christmas!" □

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# The Peripatetic Palate

by *The Classmate Galloping Gourmet*

'Tis the season...to eat out! Let the area's fine selection of restaurants help you celebrate the holiday, or duck into one of your favorite eateries to escape the holiday hoopla for a minute or two.

If you have come to enjoy squid since your arrival in Monterey (and it's amazing how many skeptical taste-buds have come around to this delicacy) try South Side Johnny's on Central Avenue in Pacific Grove. This tiny pub offers probably one of the best selections of squid in town at very reasonable prices. A group of neighbors got together there recently and sampled squid in marinara sauce, fried, tempura (!), deep fried with a VERY garlicky sauce, as well as breaded squid filet, to name just a few of the menu choices. Dinners include

chowder or salad and a pasta appetizer, making a hearty ample meal. This isn't a fancy place. You can drop in after a hard day of shopping and wrapping or call ahead to reserve the back room (as we did) for a casual nobody-has-to-work-hard-holiday-get-together. And tell them *Classmate* sent you.

We understand Ferdi's on Broadway in Seaside is a local institution. Now that we have tried a few of their sandwiches, soups, salads and entrees this distinction will get no argument from us. Another grab-a-quick-bite sort of place, it is justly famous for it's sandwiches (from huge on up). Several creole style dishes on the menu have gotten raves, especially the red beans and rice with hot sausage, a diet defeating plateful for a very low



price. On one stop a bowl of chowder and three pieces of the best garlic bread I've ever eaten was more than enough for a quick, inexpensive meal. With this kind of variety, there should be something for everyone's taste. Ferdi's also does catering if this is in your holiday plans (we can dream, can't we).

If you want to get gussied up and go fancy during the holidays may we recommend several special occasion restaurants that have been recently reviewed in *Classmate*: Chez Felix in Carmel, Fresh Cream in Heritage Harbor, Whaling Station Inn on Cannery Row, Andre's in the Barnyard.

Happy Holidays!



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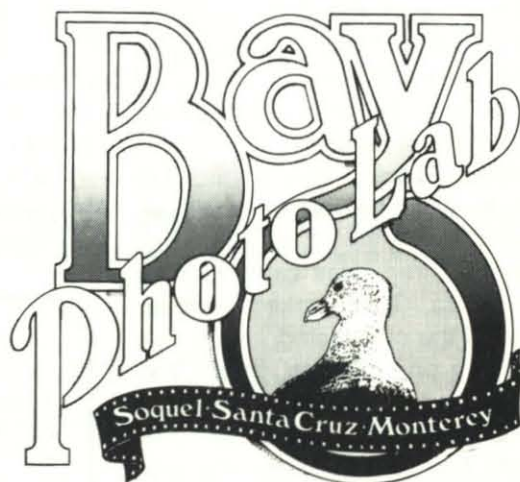
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## *La Mesa Women's Bible Studies*

by Kim Stewart

December marks the completion of another exciting quarter of women's Bible studies here in La Mesa. Over 100 women have been meeting each Thursday in one of eight study groups. As the quarter draws to a close, we look forward to a Christmas brunch, to be held Wednesday, December 11, from 9:45 to 11:15 a.m. in the Barbara McNitt Ballroom of Herrmann Hall. The cost of the brunch is \$5.50. If you are interested in learning more about the Bible studies we invite you to join us for a morning of celebrating Christ's birth with music and fellowship. Child care is available. Reservations must

be made by December 9 by calling Cindy Cupp at 384-8904. The highlight of every brunch is the presentation of the upcoming quarter's study topics and the sign-up that follows.

Our winter quarter Bible studies will begin January 9, 1985.

Topics for the quarter are:

Deepening Obedience: Studies on Jonah and Jude

A Mother's Heart - A Study on Christian Motherhood

Lord of My Rocking Boat

Faith In Action: A Study on the Book of James

Fragrance of Beauty

for the Military Wife

A Woman's Workshop on the Beatitudes: The Marks of a Christian

Daniel, Decoder of Dreams

Christian Homemaking

Book of Esther

**Heb. 10:23-25 N.A.S.B** *The theme of this quarter will be: "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more, as you see the day drawing near."*

For information regarding the studies or to register for a study, call Cookie Sanders at 373-4956.

We are interdenominational and open to all women of the Naval Postgraduate School community. We meet every Thursday morning from 9:45 to 11:15 for Bible study, prayer, and fellowship. The studies are beneficial for those who have studied the Bible for years and for those who just want to get started. Child care is available.

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# Real Estate Insider

## How A Veteran Qualifies For a VA Home Loan

by C.B. Arnett

A Veteran desiring to purchase a home using the VA guaranteed loan has available the most uncomplicated of all the mortgage loan credit procedures.

The bank or mortgage company which actually makes the loan does not use its own policies or procedures for approving or disapproving a VA loan. All loans are considered under VA guideline instructions and in every case the Veteran's Administration has final approval or disapproval authority.

It may seem strange that the Veteran's Administration does not actually lend the money but still has the final say on approval. This is easy to understand when one remembers that the VA will guarantee to the lender that

generally no money will be lost if the payments are not made and foreclosure occurs.

The first thing to remember in approaching a loan qualification is that the total dollar amount of the loan is not a factor of qualification. The only consideration is the ability of the potential borrower, under presently known circumstances, to make the monthly payments required to repay the loan.

It is important to repeat that the key to qualification is the ability to make the monthly payments under presently known circumstances. Past credit problems, bankruptcies, etc., will not be a major consideration if the situation that caused the problem has been overcome or eliminated. By the same

token, any factor which would hamper repayment (such as impending separation from the service) might be a factor that would lead to disapproval.

All income earned by both husband and wife can be used for qualification. For the service member, any pay raises coming up in the near future can also be used. This would include longevity raises, verifiable promotions and annual pay raises after the amount and implementation date has been approved by Congress.

Service personnel with a working spouse have no problem using the income of the spouse as long as a work history has been established. However, the VA does look hard at the income of a spouse who, after a long

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Continental Breakfast is available in El Rancho from 0700-1030 Monday through Friday. Breakfast for Essential Feeding is available in El Rancho from 0645 to 0745 Monday thru Friday and on Saturday from 0800-1000. Dinner is available Monday through Thursday, Saturday and Sunday in El Rancho from 1700 to 1930 and from 1730-2030 on Friday. Lunch is available in El Rancho Monday through Friday 1100-1315. Sunday Brunch is served from 1000-1300.

Attractive rooms at the Club are available for private parties, and the Club will provide prepared menu selections for home parties. For details, call Agnes Bomarito at 372-0875 between 0900-1630 Monday through Saturday.

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period of not working, takes a minimum wage job just prior to loan application.

Once income is verified, the procedure for qualification is simple subtraction. From the gross income, the following must be deducted:

a) Federal Income Taxes, Social Security and, when applicable, State Income Taxes:

b) All monthly credit payments that have more than six payments remaining;

c) A living allowance for the family. This varies depending on the number of family members and local cost of living. Normally \$250-\$350 is acceptable for a single person, \$450-\$550 for a couple and \$100-\$200 for each child;

d) Allowance for utilities and maintenance. This is usually \$200-\$350 again depending on local costs.

All remaining income may be committed to a house payment. Bear in mind that each case is considered individually by the Veteran's Administration and that these are approximate guidelines. The VA will be more or less liberal once all factors of the borrower are considered.

There are often cases when a Veteran or spouse feels that a payment which would be approved by the VA is much higher than the family can afford. This is especially true after living for a while in an apartment or government quarters.

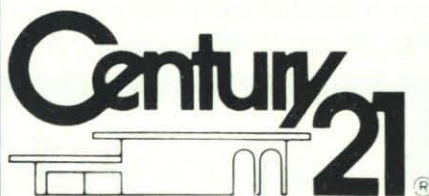
If this is your reaction after being qualified for a VA loan, just remember that the Veteran's Administration has guaranteed over 11 million home loans and thus has vast experience in determining whether or not a payment is affordable. Also, remember that the VA will not allow you to get into something you cannot afford – because if you don't make it for any reason, they must make good any loss.

**Victory For The Military:** The VA Funding Fee, scheduled to be increased to two percent on Oct. 1, 1985, will remain at one percent. A compromise budget adopted by Congress for FY 86 rejected any increase for the foreseeable future. ☐

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**Eagle's Eye  
Gallery**



Meet Jeanne Smith – artist of the month at the Eagle's Eye Gallery – through her lively and capable oil paintings. She has lived on the Monterey Peninsula 19 years and is married to Air Force Major (Ret'd.) Al Smith. She takes advantage of the bonanza of wonderful subject matter locally and in the Salinas Valley. If you're searching for a very special gift, check out this interesting gallery where Jeanne and a dozen or so other military wives show and sell their original art. A bit hard to find, but worth it – down the hall from the big bulletin board in the basement of Herrmann Hall. Hours 11:30 to 3, Monday through Friday. ☐



# Hammer & Thread

by Ginny Sycuro



This month I am happy to give credit for an excellent idea to David Brueck. His beautiful window shutters are a neat, inexpensive alternative to drapes or curtains. They can easily be made following his excellent directions. The Brueck home is decorated with fabric covered shutters throughout, some made of sheets to match bed spreads, others in contrasting fabrics. Soon, I will be using this design to make shutters covered with lace. These will be used in a room with little sunlight and will add to the feminine decor. The shutters are custom made to fit each window, and the likelihood of using them elsewhere is minimal. However, since the cost is low, and the results so beautiful, it may be worth your effort to create these beautiful window coverings for your home.

## MATERIALS

1" x 1" boards, approx. 2x width of window and 4x height of window

Staples

4 hinges

2 knobs

16 Skotch Woodjoiners per window

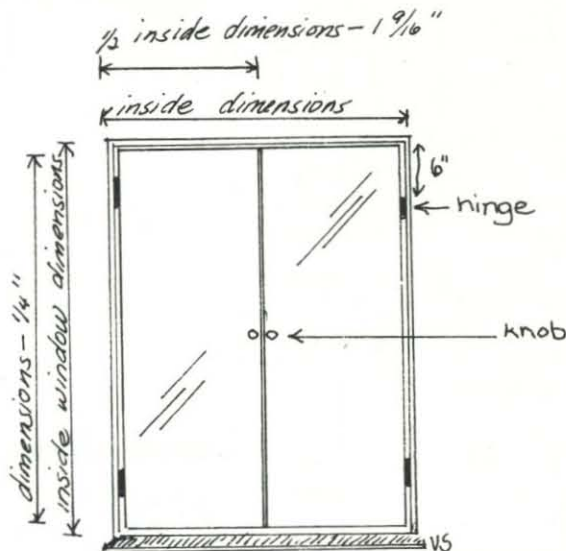
2 pieces of fabric, each measuring  $\frac{1}{2}$  width of window plus 6" x height of window plus 6".

## DIRECTIONS

1. Carefully measure the inside window dimensions. This must be a precise measurement of the dimensions from the top of the window to the top

3. Assemble two shutters per window in the following manner:

Make frame by placing height slat to the end of the width slat, square and attach wood joiners. Repeat until all corners are securely fastened, 8 fasteners per single shutter.



of the window sill. The shutter fits exactly inside this area.

2. Cut 4 pieces the height of the window -  $\frac{1}{4}$ " and 4 pieces  $\frac{1}{2}$  the width of the window -  $1\frac{9}{16}$ " from the 1x1 boards.

4. Check frames against window for proper fit.

5. Cut fabric. You will need 2 pieces of material the size of each shutter plus 3" on each side (for overlap).

6. Place the fabric on a large flat surface, face down. Place the frame on the fabric, centered with 3" border hanging evenly around. Staple the fabric to the frame, first one long side then the opposite, repeat for the short sides. While stretching fabric, be careful not to pull too hard or ripples will appear on the front.

7. Measure 6" from top and 6" from bottom of each shutter, this is for hinge placement. Apply hinges so that shutters swing into the room, mount on to window.

8. Add knob at convenient height.

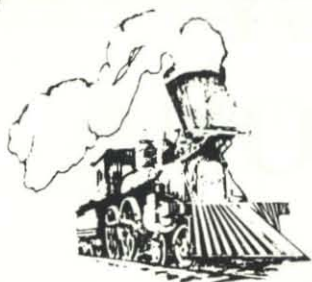
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## "CLASS"

'Tis the season to be jolly and the season when good friends join together in the most meaningful and special of occasions. It is also a time when everyone finds pleasure in simply spending time together. Put up the wreath, and hang the garland – Christmas is the time for an open house.

Open houses vary in size from a handful to many people. They are, perhaps the easiest means of entertaining a large number of guests. If your house is small, you may wish to stagger your times (A-L for 2 hours; M-Z for 2 hours).

Guests may arrive at any time within the customary two hours stated in the invitation. The host and hostess will be near the door when guests arrive, and guests are always greeted in an informal manner. Remember, most of the time, you are on your own. You may talk to a stranger or a friend, but the making of an enjoyable evening depends somewhat on you. You may stay as long as the invitation specifies.

Along with the traditional eggnog (great recipe in Navy Bleu), the host will mix and serve drinks from a convenient spot in the room. Remember to always ask the person you are with if they would care for something to drink. Get both of them at one time – to save time for yourself and the host. Do not feel awful or put upon if he should ask you to help yourself after the initial one. He wants to enjoy his guests also.

We have all been to teas, receptions, cocktail parties, etc. Just set the table in the same fashion as you have seen at these gatherings. When you are having a large open house, the table can be pulled away from the wall and food set on both sides for serving. To help alleviate the embarrassment of reaching across and the long lines, place similar plates of dainty sandwiches, heavy hors d'oeuvres, vegetable platter, sweets, cheeses, on both sides of the table. A lot of good recipes for this type of open house can be found in Navy Bleu. Enjoy your open house with friends. May you all have a Blessed Holiday Season. □

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## Christmas in the Summer Time

by Anne & J. Alberto Fernandes

When we were kindly invited to write about our Brazilian winter holidays for *The Classmate* magazine, we had to decide between writing about our winter time, which starts in June and ends in August, or sharing our Christmas celebration, that comes during our summer from December to February.

Since Christmas time is far more important for Brazilians than our winter festivities, and reasoning that *The Classmate* readers expect to hear about our Christmas, we have decided to share with you experiences from our Christmas holiday.

The Brazilian Christmas is quite a lot like the two American holidays, Thanksgiving and Christmas, wrapped together into one large festivity. In describing our Christmas you will have a

better understanding of how we celebrate Jesus' birth.

Of course, there is no snow during our Christmas. In fact, it is often blessed with very warm weather and frequent rains.

We start to shop for the festivities very early, sometimes even a couple of months before. Boutiques, big shopping centers and the streets get very crowded. When December comes, the entire country is carefully decorated and Christmas trees are set up everywhere. By the way, with lots of imagination, people use whatever they can to decorate the streets where they live and their houses, leaving all prepared for a moment to stop and share love, gifts, and hope.

We usually send cards, organize banquets and invite friends and relatives to attend. With everyone trying to get together for the festivities, the traffic on our highways becomes very intense.

On the evening of December 24, we start the commemorations; clubs and restaurants are open for dinners all night long and people attend a midnight mass with prayers in their heart.

Finally, we exchange gifts and best wishes, but feelings of celebration do not disappear until after New Year's Eve.

On January 6, the Christmas decorations are taken down and with renewed feelings of hope people face again another year.

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## Gifts

by Donna Lembo Petroka

Christmas is upon us once more, it appears,  
as we hurry and scurry to Mervyn's, Macy's, and Sears.  
The hustle and bustle, a merchant's delight!  
But, oh, our poor arches what a throbbing, swollen sight!  
The home is dressed proudly, draped in tinsel and colored balls,  
while aromas of Christmas tree cookies gently wift through the halls.  
Shall we take but a moment to ponder the might,  
of God's infinite glory, one very special night.  
God gave us His Son, His most precious gift to all,  
without courts or trumpets to announce His call.  
Humbly and meekly He chose to remain,  
to offer love, peace, and joy, eternal gifts for every man.  
As you unwrap your packages and smile with a start,  
God's gift is there too, won't you open your heart.

## Christmas Star

by Marion S. Wilson

How bright the light!  
Star of Bethlehem  
Shining through the night  
Heralding rebirth  
Of One who lived so long ago.  
That One is with us still.  
His gift of selfless sacrifice,  
His glorious, triumphant life,  
Immortal Love He came to give  
To heal – to teach us how to heal  
And live this Love.  
And as we travel on our pilgrim way –  
To every open heart, receptive thought,  
The Christ is born again today.





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# Christmas In Portugal

by The Portuguese Families

Portugal, as every country in the world, has its own way of celebrating Christmas. Although traditions change from region to region, one fact is common to all of them: as a Catholic country, it celebrates overall the birth of Jesus.

That's why every house, from the poorest to the richest, will have its *Pre-sepio* (Nativity scene) where the baby Jesus will take the central place, on a straw bed, protected by Virgin Mary and Saint Joseph and warmed by the donkey and the ox.

Therefore, it means the reunion of the family and sharing of love.

People will travel from town to town, in order that they can be together on

Christmas Eve. Every member will sit around the table to have the typical Christmas Eve meal: the *bacalhau* (codfish) and cabbage in the North and center of the country, pork and clams in the South.

Some days before Christmas, there will be a great excitement in what concerns the decoration of the tree. Especially the kids will get the most wonderful balls and garlands, stars and artificial snowflakes in order to have a perfect tree which will be placed in the main room, usually the living-room.

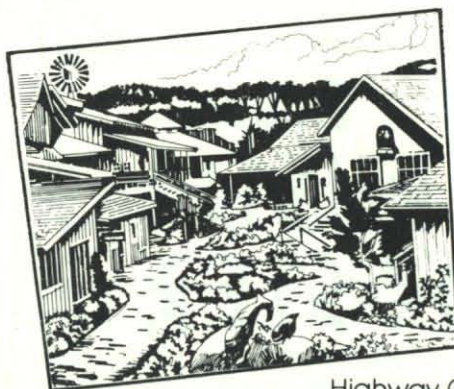
After supper, we will attend the midnight mass; and then already at home, near the tree, we will open the gifts

and listen to or sing Christmas carols.

The next day, lunch is generally arranged in one of the houses of the family (changing every year) where we will eat the famous stuffed turkey, and the table will be set (all day long) with delicious things, such as: dried fruits, chocolate and almond trunks, fried pumpkin pastries, dried fruit tarts and the traditional king cake!

This is some of what we do in Portugal Christmas Eve and Day.

As we do in Portugal, to our families and friends, we wish to all the *Classmate* staff, International Committee members and all the International families, a "Merry Christmas".



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# Christmas in Colombia

by Maria E. Franco

Colombia is a Catholic country and for this reason, all people celebrate Christmas as the birth of Jesus Christ.

Our country has many regions and the events vary because of different customs, but the meaning is the same.

I'd like to tell you something about the Central region, where Christmas starts with the Novena to the Child Jesus. This is known as the "nine days of prayer to the Child Jesus".

Some days before Christmas, families go to the mountain or to the country to gather moss, parasitic plants and bushes to decorate the nativity. The nativity scene will be the center of the festivities in all the homes. All of the family participates in making the decorations, with paper houses being made by the children and, using their imagination, each one sets the scene with Virgin Maria, Saint Joseph, the cows, sheep, the lake and river, etc. On the 24th of December, the Child Jesus will be placed in his poor bed. The Christmas tree is also decorated with shiny balls and twinkling lights.

On December 16, everyone is ready to pray the Novena, and usually the families pray together in a different house each night until the 24th of December. After praying, the children enjoy eating candies and playing with sparklers. Some families also go to church to pray the Novena.

Finally, the 24th of December is a very familiar party. During the day, the kitchen has lots of activity with the elaboration of typical foods: *Tamales* is a mixture of corn flour, vegetables, beef, pork, and chicken wrapped inside of banana leaves; *bunuelos* are balls of shredded cheese with corn flour fried and covered with syrup; and as a beverage, hot chocolate is served. The dessert is *Natilla* made with milk, brown sugar and corn starch.

At midnight, the adults go to Mass while the children go to sleep awaiting the arrival of *Papa Noel*, our Santa Claus. Early in the morning on the 25th

of December, the children open the gifts that *Papa Noel* left on their beds or at the bottom of the nativity or Christmas tree.

One week later, December 31, at midnight we celebrate New Year's, but not as a family party like Christmas. Usually there are dancing parties in

clubs or large gatherings with friends at their homes.

Festivities end the 6th of January, on Epiphany Day when the kings arrived to visit the Child Jesus. Every family, once again, stores the decorations and memories away until next Christmas.

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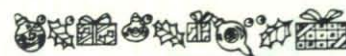
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# A.J.'s Merry Miracle



by Donna Lembo Petroka

A. J. tried to get into the Christmas spirit. But somehow spending Christmas Eve in a Pennsylvania hotel room didn't seem like Christmas to a ten year old. He knew in his mind, because of Dad's job in the Navy, moving happened frequently. But in his heart, he felt an emptiness---the Christmas spirit was not to be found.

"It's Christmas Eve and we don't even have a tree," he grumbled as he stared blankly through the hotel window. Even the tall pine tree which stood a few yards outside the window appeared transparent before his empty stare.

Mom was trying her best to make the evening special, bustling about as if the room was the living room at home.

"C'mon, A. J.," Mom pleaded, "join us for some Christmas caroling while we trim our tree." She gently tugged on his arm motioning for him to join the others.

"Aw, Mom, we don't have a tree," A.J. pouted.

"Well, we'll just have to invent one. Pretend one is standing right here," she eagerly said. "Here, you can string the popcorn for the garland and I'll give your sister her favorite drummer boy ornament," exclaimed Mom as she handed out the invisible assignments.

Within minutes, sounds of "Oh Little Town Of Bethlehem" filled the room. Mom, Dad and Kate sang out as they danced around the imaginary tree. Even Cocoa, the dog, sniffed the ground searching for that pine scent.

But A. J. sat slumped in the chair half listening to the song. Somehow the words to "Oh Little Town Of Bethlehem" spoke to his heart. A flickering outside the window suddenly caught his attention. There were streaks of moonbeams filtering through the clouds. "It's just the moon," he thought. Soon his thoughts focused on the heavens and then to God. Quietly he prayed, "Hi Lord, it's me, A.J. I know it's your birthday tomorrow. The stars even look like birthday can-

dles. I know it's silly, but I'd give you a surprise birthday party if I could. Do you think you might give me a Christmas tree? I believe you could do it, because you do miracles the best. But if you don't that's okay. That's all, Lord. Oh, and happy birthday too!"

In the stillness of the moment, a warm feeling slowly melted into A.J.'s heart. As he watched expectantly out of the window, only the tall pine stood there. However, the Christmas sky was beginning to unfold.

In the background, Mom's voice sounded distant. "Okay, let's put the spotlight on our tree," she directed Dad.

At the exact instant as mom turned on the imaginary light, the moon leaped from behind the clouds. Its soft beams draped the tree. Majestically, the pine stood spotlighted. A. J. sat frozen like a statue. It was as if someone had switched on the light!

"Next, we put on the snow," Mom announced. "A sprinkle here and there," she sang, while Kate threw her arms up to sprinkle her pretend snow.

Outside, simultaneously, white sparkles drifted downward sifting over the tree. Snowflakes danced on the long needles shimmering in the moonlight. A. J. noticed the snow fell only on the tree and nowhere else!

"Okay, now for the ornaments," said Mom as she handed out the invisible bulbs.

Suddenly, out of the magic of the

night, came a rustling of wings. Fourteen winter cardinals alighted on the tree. One by one, they nestled themselves on the limbs as if decorated by an unseen hand. Motionless, they sat adorning the tree in their vibrant crimson color. Pinecones peeked out from between the branched hanging like carefully placed ornaments. A. J. blinked his eyes as if to see more clearly.

Again Mom's voice rang out, "And now it's time for the star. Dad, will you do the honors and place the most important ornament on the top of the tree?"

While Dad stood on tip-toe holding the imaginary star at the top of the invisible tree, a glorious luminescence shone in the sky. And there, in all of its brilliance, piercing the darkness of the night, shone a star. Its radiant sparkle shouted across the night sky as it assumed the position of honor above the highest limb. A.J. gasped in wonder at the sight.

Slowly, Mom, Dad, and Kate walked to the window. Surrounded by the night shadows stood the tree, twinkling and trimmed in full grandeur. Tears filled Mom's eyes as she beheld the miracle. All remained still as if the splendor of the vision might vanish.

With a heart now bursting with joy, A.J. gazed into the sky and whispered a reverent, "Thanks, Lord." It was a moment forever etched upon his memory.

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## New Year's Day In Korea

by Haesook Baek



In Korea we have two big holidays in winter: Christmas and New Year's Day. I am going to describe New Year's Day, which in Korea is called *Sulnal*.

Last year is gone, and the New Year is coming. *Sulnal* is the beginning of the New Year.

We wish away the evil and bestow blessings with new and clean bodies, thoughtful and hopeful minds. We believe that the fortune of the New Year begins from the first day. So we meet the first day carefully.

On the first day of the New Year, we get up early and wear new clothes that have been prepared the day before. Early in the morning we have a brief religious service for the ancestors (Charae). After we finish, we bow to our old family members for the New Year's greeting (Saebae). We eat the food which we have prepared with a religious service and then visit old relatives and neighbors to bow. Everyone exchanges felicitations. They prepare Korean wine and traditional cakes for the adults, and money and cookies for

the children.

After the visits, everyone goes to the tombs, bows, and remembers their ancestors.

In order to encourage a habit for saving, the adults give money to the children. The children gather money and might buy eggs with it. They let the eggs hatch into chickens. After selling the chickens, they might buy a calf, and wait for the calf to grow into a cow. They sell the cow so they can make more money.

In Korea we prepare special New Year's dishes. Every home makes rice bar-shaped cakes. We slice them into thin pieces the day before. On New Year's morning, we eat rice cake soup. We believe that eating one bowl of rice cake soup makes us one year older.

We have many joyful special games for this day. One of them is a seesaw game only for women. The board is set on a low stone or a bag filled with rice straw. The players stand upright, jump in the air and come down hard. It may have begun in order to give girls

a glimpse of the world outside their walled yard, back in the days when ladies were never permitted to leave their homes.

While women play a seesaw game, the young fly kites. Kite flying begins on New Year's Day and continues through early spring. Kite flying is often competitive, each youthful player trying to cut the string of an opponent by crossing the strings in mid-air. Sometimes powdered glass is glued to the string to make it more formidable. At the end of the kite flying month, boys write "away evil, come blessings" and release their kites to bear away the family's bad luck.

We have many other games: *Yut Play*, Korean fire works, etc., that are associated with New Year's Day, but I will not go into them at this time.

Though I greet the coming New Year here, and not in Korea, I am going to prepare rice cake soup for my husband, children and neighbors. We'll spend the New Year playing *Yut Play*. HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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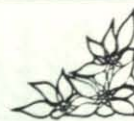
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## Make The Difference at Christmas

by Sunny Evans



For most of the residents of La Mesa and the Monterey Peninsula, Christmas is a happy and memorable time of year. We have nice homes to live in, regular paychecks, clothes, enough to eat, and medical care for ourselves and our children. Not very far from our comfortable lives exists an environment of poverty, desperation, hunger, sickness, and the daily struggle to survive. I refer to the agricultural Salinas Valley.

Unknown to many people, especially those new to California, is the tragic situation of the Mexican farm laborers. Some of these people have crossed over the U.S. border illegally while others have managed to obtain visas. Despite their status, they have all come to the United States to earn a living. The absence of jobs, money, medical care and many of the basic necessities of life in Mexico have driven these people to the United States in search of something better.

Many individuals come alone to the United States to work with the hope of sending money to their families in Mexico. Others bring their families with them. They have a difficult time after they arrive here. They are charged exorbitant deposits and rental fees for living quarters, many of which are sub-standard. Mothers and fathers have no one to care for their children while they work in the fields all day. The constant fear of deportation hangs over each individual who comes to the U.S. illegally. Unfortunately, deportation can sometimes mean separation from family members (i.e., a father or mother from their children if they are picked up while working in the fields).

Help is being given to these people on a small scale. Both the Catholic and Protestant Chapels at the Naval Postgraduate School have contributed to this need throughout the years. Various churches and concerned individuals in the area have also been active in contributing to an effort to help these people. The link to the people in the Salinas Valley is one particular lady

who has, for the past 16 years, made almost daily trips from the Monterey Peninsula to the Salinas Valley in her small pickup truck. Early in the morning, she makes the rounds of the local grocery stores and picks up food donations. Then, out of her own garage, which is basically a tiny warehouse, she loads up various items which have been donated and heads for the Salinas Valley farm labor camps. She stops here and there, giving particular items she has found to meet some of the individual needs of the people there. Sometimes it might be an old refrigerator, a bed, blankets, or shoes for an entire family.

I recently accompanied this lady on one of her daily runs to the camps. In one of the camps, I met a Mexican woman, the mother of five girls. The woman, her husband, and five daughters are living in one dismal, unheated room with two beds. There is no indoor plumbing or running water. The children had no warm clothing.

There were only a few canned food items on a shelf. One of the children, a six year old, was the size of an average child of three. Another child, age 13, suffers from diabetes and is the size of an average child of ten. This child had not been receiving regular injections of insulin in Mexico, and what she had received had been of poor quality. Lack of food, money and medicine drove them to the United States. This is only one family at one of the many farm labor camps.

This year during the Christmas season, specific items are being sought to give to these people. They are: food, jackets for men, women and children, blankets, toys in good condition, and games and puzzles (with all of the pieces) for older children and teens. Other donated items will be accepted throughout the year.

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# CHRISTMAS IN CANADA

by Annick Fleurant and Donna Irving



Christmas in Canada is a wonderful potpourri of customs and food from our various cultures. It is a time to visit friends and relatives, exchange gifts and sample traditional family foods. Old Man Winter usually gives us lots of snow and ice so that we may enjoy skiing, skating or coasting. The snow piles against the houses, Christmas lights twinkle, and inside the smell of rich, spicy fruitcake, shortbread, and mulled wine set the scene for the big day. Preparations will have started in November with the baking being done and the ladies getting together to do Xmas crafts and exchange cookies.

Most cultures usually have a Christmas Eve church service. In the French-Canadian homes, a light supper is

served in the late afternoon prior to setting the table for *The Reveillon* feast that comes later. The adults partake in Midnight Mass and return home to wake the children. After the Christmas Story is told, Baby Jesus is placed in the Nativity cradle under the Christmas tree. The gifts are opened prior to the family sitting down to *The Reveillon* – turkey, *tourtiere* (meat pie), *cipaille* (pie made with game meat), and all the trimmings. For dessert a Christmas log is normally served. After listening to traditional music and performing folk dances, everyone retires to bed at 4 or 5 a.m.

In English homes, the Christmas Eve Service is usually followed by hanging the stockings on the fireplace

mantle, putting out a snack of milk and cookies for Santa, and slipping into bed. Thanks to the little ones' excitement, Christmas morning usually begins not long after the French Canadian neighbors have gone to bed. Everyone is up early to see what Santa has left. The remainder of the morning is spent playing with the gifts and preparing for the mid-afternoon dinner. Friends and relatives arrive to enjoy a turkey or goose supper accompanied by one's favorite vegetables. Dessert will be plum pudding with whipped cream or Christmas fruit cake with thick almond icing. After rolling away from the table, the evening is spent playing games with the children.

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## NEW YEAR'S IN TURKEY

by Zafer Betoner

In comparison to many countries in Europe and America, New Year's is celebrated in much the same way in our country. Since most of the population is Moslem, we do not celebrate Christmas. However, some minorities do.

On New Year's Eve, the 31st of December, we buy presents for our family members and friends. We decorate our homes with ornaments and sometimes evergreen trees. Everybody gets together, friends and neighbors, to have fun.

Snow is the natural scenario of our country in winter. Children play outside, shaping the snowman's nose with a carrot, throwing snowballs to each other, full of joy and friendship.

During the eve, we have a big dinner, sing songs, dance, watch special entertainment programs on TV, and play games. Some spend their night out in taverns or restaurants. In any case, a couple of minutes before midnight, all the lights are turned off to give celebrants a chance of stealing a kiss and the lights are turned on again with applause to say welcome to a New Year. Everyone wishes a happy and healthy year to one another, so the party goes on 'til morning. January the first is a holiday for all of us.

A change, not only of a year, but spirits, ideals and feelings of getting one year older and more experienced, and with great hopes and wishes on our minds. □

## Andrew, Who Tried To Trim The Christmas Tree Last Night

by Donna Lembo Petroka

I don't know why Matt, up the street, and his dad could put up their Christmas tree in one day. I don't know why Daddy made that funny grunting sound when I closed the door because I saw an earwig coming in, and he was bringing the tree in too. I was only trying to help.

Last night I tried to hold the tree while Daddy put it in the Christmas tree stand. Daddy said I'm strong because I can go all the way across the monkey bars without falling. I tried to itch my nose, but I forgot my hands were holding the tree. Do Christmas tree needles hurt? I think they do. Daddy asked me if I'd like to feel one while he took them out of his shirt. He was kidding.

I tried to get the boxes out with all the pretty ornaments in them. I stacked four boxes up and tripped into the living room. Mommy had a scary look on her face. Don't worry, Mom, I'm strong!

Daddy said to get the ornaments out and watch the hooks. I watched Katelyn grab a hook and put it in her mouth. That was dumb, Katelyn. She cried. My Daddy yelled at me to watch the hooks. I did!

Last night I tried to trim the tree. I helped Daddy string out all the blinking lights. Daddy pulled out a couple lights to fix them. I knew why they weren't blinking. Daddy screamed: He wasn't ready for me to plug them in yet. How

was I supposed to know his finger was where the light should be? Mommy said work on something else. Daddy held his finger and looked at me with wrinkles in his forehead. I worked on something else.

I found the icicles and put them on the floor. Cocoa, our dog, found them too. The vacuum cleaner will have to eat the shreds up now. Mommy said maybe it could eat me too. She's teasing. It couldn't eat me.....could it?!!

The ornament box with the red reindeer on the lid was open. There was my favorite drummer boy dough ornament I had made in Mrs. W.'s Preschool class last year on top. My feet ran to tell Mommy. Mommy came out to see it. But Katelyn saw it first. Maybe she thought it felt like a cookie. Maybe she thought the green stuff on it looked like icing. Bye, bye drummer boy ornament. I had a sick feeling in my tummy. Mommy had a sicker look on her face when she saw Katelyn. What's Syrup of Ipecac, anyway? Sounds like Katelyn will have a sick tummy now.

Daddy said it was time for bed. But I hadn't trimmed the tree yet. He said it was still time for bed. But I had to put the ornaments on. Daddy said it was positively, absolutely, definitely, time for bed,...NOW!! I said okay, but I had to trim the tree.....tomorrow.

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## Christmas In July

by Caryn Mears



It was July Fourth, a traditional meeting time for our family. My mother's anniversary falls on June 30, and ours falls on July 2, so a joint celebration seemed appropriate. This particular July was quite an exception. The clan had grown, adding four beautiful blond granddaughters to the celebration.

Excitement filled the air. The Christmas tree and its trimmings were missing from this celebration, but the pool's colorful lights were like Christmas ornaments magnetically drawing everyone out of the Las Vegas heat. Even without the tree, packages were everywhere. There were hand-me-down boxes, eight birthdays that fell in May, June and July and, of course, the

anniversaries.

But even more was to happen that particular July. We were not gathered for anniversaries, but instead something very unique. We were meeting "Grandpa" for the first time.

We all knew the story, Mom had been an illegitimate baby adopted at the age of three. Grandma and Grandpa Bates were wonderful grandparents for us. And it wasn't until long after they had passed away that Mom decided to search for her natural mother for medical information.

Months of waiting went by. "Women are difficult to locate," phoned the Minneapolis case worker, "They can change their names so many times."

Then slowly a miracle unfolded. A woman had contacted the agency also looking for my mother's natural mother. This woman turned out to be Mom's Great Aunt Effie. Once passed all the legalities, a reunion was arranged.

What a reunion it turned out to be! Mom was looking for a medical background and she found that. But she also found the genetic makeup of her daughters! She also discovered her writing ability was an inherited trait. Great Aunt Effie had published several poetry books!

Unfortunately, there were still some unanswered questions; whom did she look like, and where had this musical ability come from? She started to be-

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lieve she should be thankful for having found this many relatives all in one place, and then another surprise telephone call interrupted the anxious waiting. "We've located your father," said the voice, "when would you like to meet him?"

Laughter filled the house, masking the tremendous tension. And then, as if the greatest package of all had been opened, four generations met for the first time!

Big, dancing, brown eyes sparkled back at big, dancing, brown eyes. Mom felt as if she were looking in a mirror. Here was a little man, as petite and spry as she. As they embraced, we saw the genetic makeup God had intended to be shared. We each wiped the tears, feeling as if we were a part of a reunion on the Phil Donahue Show.

With Mom, the festivities wouldn't be complete without a feast for a king. This "Christmas" dinner was filled with stares, and oh so much conversation!

Grandpa Oberg, as we all called him, had been a Minneapolis policeman by day and a dance band leader by night, playing the big string bass. Now we knew where the musical background had come from. He'd even known our adopted Grandpa Bates and his dance band!

"I used to tell people that I had a daughter somewhere," laughed Grandpa Oberg. Having never fathered any other children, we could see how special this occasion was for him. As we opened the packages that filled the table, four year old Amber shrieked, "This is just like Christmas!" And indeed it was.

Christmas wouldn't be complete without music, so out came my guitar. "Sing the one you and Cathy did about the raindrops," my Mom would request. "Do the one you sang at your wedding," said someone else. Together my sister and I led song after song, interspersing the children's versions of the *Alphabet song*, *Jesus Loves Me* and *Where is*

*Thumbkin*. It was as if we were six years old again and Mom wanted us to play the piano for our visitors.

Here was a man who had lost fifty years. He'd never been a father, and now he was a father, grandfather and great grandfather. As we sang, Grandpa Oberg and Mom held hands, each separately reminiscing. Mom had experienced our struggles of rehearsals and fights and she deserved to feel proud. That pride shone through her tears.

Grandpa Oberg had missed those experiences. But as a tear rolled down his cheek, I knew he was proud too. Proud that his genes had help produce these beautiful talented children.

We only had two short years before Grandpa Oberg passed away, but Mom will treasure her memories along with a special necklace that says #1 Daughter. And I will treasure Grandpa's teardrops, the best present of all. I can only imagine what Christmas in July meant to him. □

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## *Favorite Holiday Traditions*



*Debbie Schlechte*

Our favorite holiday tradition is decorating the tree. Gene makes popcorn and puts on our favorite Christmas albums and we spend the afternoon decorating. Attending Christmas cantatas and Christmas Eve services are also very special traditions.



*Andi MacDonald*

Christmas carols, decorations, baking, a huge tree we chose and cut down ourselves, Santa's cookies and milk with Rudolph's carrot, the special story chosen by the kids then off to bed and Santa's arrival! The closeness of the whole family during this special time.



*Joyce Mansell Glover*

Gift opening has always been a frantic ripping and tossing of paper in the past. No more. I've taken a hint from my mother-in-law. Now we will take turns, starting with the oldest and working down the age level, so I can see and be excited over each treasure from Santa.



*Lolita Shaw*

The Shaws invite neighbors and friends (including children) who did not get to go home to relatives over for a traditional Christmas Eve, complete with presents (a small token of remembrance), dinner, and friendship. Everyone should experience the love of this most blessed time of the year.



*Sunny Evans*

Christmas begins in our house on December 1. Boxes of Christmas decorations come out to the delight of our two girls, and the house immediately becomes cluttered with an assortment of Santa Clauses, Christmas trees, sleighs and bells. A new childlike nativity scene has been added to our collection this year in hopes of being a reminder to our children and ourselves of the true meaning of Christmas.



*Ann Malokas*

Cutting down an evergreen. Secrets. Tree trims that remind us of our past addresses and years of loving and growing. Unwrapping one present on Christmas Eve (Just one, Mom?) Candles. Local rituals wherever we live. Cookies. More cookies. A fudge chaser. Red velvet on our tomboy daughter. Music. Greetings from friends around the world.



## *Favorite Holiday Traditions*



*Margie Fassio*

My favorite family tradition is our special Christmas Eve dinner.

My mother prepares a Slovak dinner of sour mushroom soup as an appetizer, and then sauerkraut and babalki. We use the best china and silver, and enjoy a relaxing holiday meal with all the Christmas decorations and candles lit.



*Judy Scalzitti*

Last year, we made a fruitcake for Christmas with the intentions of beginning a new tradition in our household. It was loaded with fruit, we overcooked it and it became quite dark and unappetizing. Although our relatives loved it (??!!), this year we are using a DIFFERENT recipe!



*Carla Wright*

Christmas is really just a lot of feelings for me. I love to listen to the excited voices of my children when they talk expectantly about Christmas and sing happy carols. There is also a special feeling I associate with watching their glowing faces on Christmas morning. Children really are the most joyous gift.



*Caryn Mears*

Coming from a family that thrived on tradition, it's difficult to choose just one. But now, being a military family, one tradition continues to be used. Opening gifts on Christmas Eve provides the possibility of giving our children new pajamas for Christmas. Nothing beats snuggling up with dreams of Santa in a new pair of warm "jammies"!



*Susan Sestak*

My fondest memories are those of Christmas Eve sitting anxiously beside the lighted tree. For days, we gazed at the mysterious packages beneath and tonight is the night to open the ONE that we had our eyes on! Afterwards, we would prepare goodies for Santa, then reluctantly head for bed to drift off to sleep with visions of .....



*Jan Formisano*

A tradition has been formed around the decorating of our Christmas tree each year. Each ornament is carefully unwrapped and placed in its own special spot on the tree. From our wedding day on, I have been given special ornaments from special friends. Unpacking them gives me a warm, wonderful feeling as I remember past holidays and old friends.



## *Favorite Holiday Traditions*



*Therese Bilodeau*

My favorite Christmas tradition is going to Midnight Mass with my family. We leave church at about 1:30 a.m., and if my prayers have been answered, it's snowing softly and the weather is perfect for the quarter mile walk home. All is silent except for the crunching of packed dry snow underfoot and it truly feels like a "Silent Night, Holy Night."



*Su Cox*

My favorite Christmas tradition involves decorating the tree. The colorful ornaments of wood and glass received from relatives back home and friends now scattered in various parts of the world fills my heart with a warmth and glow for the coming holiday season. Merry Christmas!



*Laurie Smith*

Since I was a little girl, my family has celebrated Christmas Eve by each child opening one gift before bed. Now that I have two children, we have continued the tradition. Melissa and David both wait eagerly for their present and then go to bed dreaming of Christmas morning.



*Lynne Tungett*

One of my favorite holiday traditions is sending and receiving greeting cards. Sending cards is a grueling task especially if you write a personalized note in every card like I do. But hearing from friends and relatives, near and far, and seeing photos of how children have grown in a year, adds a special joy to my Christmas celebration.



*Helen Egerton*

At Christmas we remember my Norwegian heritage. We bake cookies and breads from recipes brought to this country by my great grandparents. Our favorites are lefse, flatbread and krum kakke. Many of our decorations are from Norway. It's a wonderful time to reflect and give thanks.



*Sue Ericson*

Our family's favorite tradition is sitting in front of a fire on Christmas evening and reading our antique copy of *The Night Before Christmas*.





## CHRISTMAS CANTATA

The combined choirs of the Protestant Chapel, NPS, the Catholic Chapel, NPS, and the Protestant Chapel, DLI, all under the direction of Scott Salyers, will perform their annual Christmas Cantata, Sunday, December 15, 7:00 p.m. in King Hall.

"The Promise of Christmas" by Burgess/Krogstad, tells of God's Word. When God's Word became flesh in the Child of Bethlehem, God's plan was set in motion, at which time the celebration starts. "Come Celebrate Jesus", by Marsh/Cloniger, expresses a wonderful Christmas joy.

Join these choirs in their free performance and join in the celebration, December 15 at 7:00 in King Hall.

## Christmas Day

by Caryn Mears

Christ was born on Christmas Day,  
Holy Babe, He humbly lay.  
Radiant stars announced His birth,  
Infant of glory, grandeur and worth.  
See the Child in a manger lay,  
Tiny Babe upon straw and hay.  
Messiah is He, glad tidings we raise.  
Angels sang the Savior's praise  
Sent from heaven for peace on earth,  
Did He know, 'twas His royal birth?  
Alleluias, let us sing.  
Yea this, the Babe, the heavenly King!



## O MY STARS... IT'S CHRISTMAS!

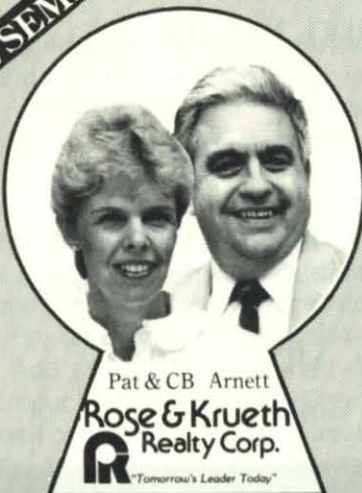
O MY STARS...IT'S CHRISTMAS! is a Christmas Musical Fantasy, based on the successful children's story, Andro the Star of Bethlehem. The story is full of joyful songs and Christmas love, presented by the Protestant Chapel Children's Choirs. Children of all ages are invited to attend this FREE performance held in King Hall, Sunday, December 8th, at 7:00 p.m.



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## The Story Of Hanukkah

After the death of Alexander the Great (323 B.C.E. [Before the Common Era]), his Empire was divided into two smaller kingdoms – Egypt to the south and Syria to the north.

In the year 175 B.C.E. there arose a new king in Syria – Antiochus IV. He was a harsh ruler and treated all those whom he conquered cruelly.

Antiochus sent officers to the cities of Judea to proclaim, "The king has ordered all his kingdom to become one people and that everyone should forsake his own laws and his own religion." The king commanded the people to break the Sabbath and ignore the holy Jewish festivals. He instructed the Jews to ignore their prayers and religious practices. An idol was placed on the altar of God and incense burned

in its honor.

The king's officer came to the city of Modin and said to Mattathias, a priest who dwelt in Modin, "You are a great man and well-known in the city. Come and fulfill the king's command and you shall be counted among the king's friends." But Mattathias turned to the officer and answered in a loud voice, "Neither I nor my sons nor any faithful Hebrews will ever worship an idol."

The Syrian officer called for another volunteer. When, in the sight of all the people, one of the Jews came forward to sacrifice to the idol, Mattathias was filled with anger, and struck him down.

Then Mattathias leaped to the top of the altar and shouted, "All those who are faithful to the Lord, follow me."

One of Mattathias' sons, Judah

(called "The Maccabee"), became the commander-in-chief of the Hebrew army and led the people into battle. Never did men fight more bravely against such odds. Because they believed in their cause and were faithful to the heritage of their fathers, they were able to defeat the stronger enemy. Because they were dedicated to their religious heritage and to the principles for which it stood, they were filled with the courage and strength to achieve the final victory.

Judah, his brothers and all loyal Jews came to rededicate the Temple in Jerusalem. However, when the people gathered to celebrate the "rededication" the High Priest could find only one small jar of Holy oil with which to light the *Ner Tamid* (the Eternal Light). This was just enough oil to burn for one day. Then it was that a wondrous thing occurred. For the oil in the lamp burned for eight days!

In remembrance of this great occasion, *Hanukkah* – the Feast of Dedica-



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## ....FOCUS....FOCUS....FOCUS....

tion — is observed every year for eight days, beginning with the twenty-fifth day of the month of *Kislev*. The *Menorah*, Hanukkah candle holder, contains places for 8 candles and a 9th candle, the *Shamash* is raised above the others. Each of the 8 candles represents one of the 8 days of Hanukkah.

Since the time of the Maccabees the battle for religious freedom has been fought over and over again throughout the world. After each victory, grateful men, women and children have dedicated themselves to their traditions and kept alive the remembrance of the struggle for religious freedom. The Jewish people celebrate the festival of Hanukkah, this year and every year, and they will give thanks for the freedom which their ancestors won so bravely. They will treasure this precious possession, and ever seek to build a world in which all men may live in freedom and peace.

### Cheese and Raisin Latkes

2 eggs, separated  
 1/4 cup water  
 2 Tbsp. sugar  
 2 tsp. salt  
 2 cups (1 lb. cottage cheese)  
 3/4 cup unsifted flour  
 1/2 cup raisins  
 Oil

Beat together the egg yolks, water, sugar and salt until well mixed. Stir in cottage cheese. Add flour; stir until thoroughly blended. Mix in raisins. Beat the egg whites until stiff peaks form; fold into cottage cheese mixture. Heat about 1/8 to 1/4-inch depth of oil in a large, heavy skillet. For each latke, drop about 1/4 cup cheese mixture into hot oil. Fry on each side until golden brown. Add oil to pan as needed to keep proper depth for frying. Drain latkes well on absorbent paper. Serve hot with dairy sour cream, maybe. You'll have about twelve delicate cheese-raisin latkes... and more compliments than you can count.

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## ...FOCUS...FOCUS...FOCUS...

# A German Christmas

by Karen Schuster

Today the time of Advent begins. It is the fourth Sunday before Christmas. My mother and father have made a wreath of fir tree twigs and have decorated it with tiny pinecones, red ribbon and four candles. Each Sunday a candle is lit. The light gets brighter with each Sunday and symbolizes the coming birth of the Christchild.

To us, it also means that Christmas is only four more weeks away and much has to be done to prepare for the Christmas Holidays. Mother will be baking many different kinds of cookies with us as well as a "Christstollen". Father will be helping us make gifts for our friends and family members. This year he will help my sister and me make our own Christmas cards.

On December 4, which is the name-day of Saint Barbara, my father goes and cuts small branches from trees and bushes that blossom in the Spring. My mother arranges these branches in a vase. They will be in full bloom by the time Christmas comes. This symbolizes hope.

On the night of December 5, Saint Nikolaus will come and fill our shoes, which we have cleaned and polished and put outside in front of the door. If he feels my sister and I have been good all this year he will fill the shoes with nuts, fruit and candy, but if he feels we haven't been good we will have a switch, called a *Rute*, in our shoes. I try to be good most of the time, but I guess Saint Nikolaus sees each time I act up and that is why he usually fills my shoes with a *Rute* that has been decorated with candy . . . to remind me that I should be better next year.

Soon we will write our letter to the Christkind along with a list of things we would like to have for Christmas. The air seems to bristle as each one decides in secrecy what gifts we will give each other.

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## ....FOCUS....FOCUS....FOCUS....

As Christmas gets closer and closer mother usually bakes the second batch of cookies, since we have managed to eat more than our fill. She then begins her shopping for the holiday meals.

On Christmas Eve, we prepare a simple meal to remind us that the Christchild didn't have much. And besides mother doesn't have much time since she spends the whole day helping the Christkind decorate the Christmas tree and bring in the gifts. We, my sister and I, are not allowed in the living room or else the Christkind will fly away and not leave us a tree or the gifts. There is much suspense throughout the house as my mother and sometimes my father go in and out of the living room. Now and then we can hear the bells on the Christkind's wings. My sister and I have tried to peek in to see her, but have never managed to get a glimpse of her.

After dinner on Christmas Eve, when everything is quiet, the Christkind will ring her tiny bell and that is the signal that everything is ready and that we, too, can come into the living room.

Every year the Christmas tree seems to be more beautiful than the year before. There are always candles burning and all the decorations shine in the soft candle light. In the background my father has put on a record with beautiful Christmas songs. We then sing *Silent Night* together and *O Tannenbaum* and maybe even a few more songs, but my sister and I can't wait to pass out all the magnificent presents piled under the Christmas tree. Shortly before midnight, we get ready to go to church to celebrate the *Mitternachts Mette*.

Christmas isn't over then - Oh no. The next day is the first Christmas Holiday and that means that our grandparents and sometimes friends come over to our house for an opulent meal. Mother makes roast duck, goose or turkey or something else really special.

This year my grandmother will be coming over from Germany to be with us on Christmas. I wonder what mother will make. I'll bet it will be something extra special! - For an extra special German Christmas in Monterey!! □

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Articles for *Classmate* should be neatly typed and double-spaced. They should be turned in by the first day of the month preceding the month the article is to be printed.

### Focus for December

Holiday Traditions

### Focus for January

Favorite Recipes

### Focus for February

Love, Friendship & Marriage

### March & April

Welcome Aboard

### May

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### June

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## CHRISTMAS AT HOME — U.S.A. —

by Debbie Schlechte

Just one year ago, I wrote my very first article for *The Classmate*. I enjoyed reminiscing, and I hope you will too. Merry Christmas!

There are many "traditions" that came to mind when I thought of Christmas in America. However, most of these traditions came from other countries because they have been handed down to us by our ancestors. We are a "melting pot" of traditions. Santa Claus was the only original for the United States that I could find. Santa comes from our own Clement Moore who wrote a poem about Santa and his eight tiny reindeer over a century ago. Our little ones (and big ones too) enjoy writing their Christmas letters to

Santa Claus % The North Pole. Santa works so hard climbing down the chimney or climbing through the window on Christmas Eve that he should receive a thank-you letter too! It's always fun to see Santa in the shopping malls talking to the little children and having his picture taken with each one of them. I've always wondered though, is Santa always photogenic? My husband and I like to play Mr. and Mrs. Claus for each other, and the trick is not to get caught. A day of slavery is the price one will pay for getting caught on Christmas Eve. I've never been caught so I wonder why I'm a . . .

Choosing a Christmas tree is always so much fun, though some people prefer an artificial tree. I've never minded

sweeping up pine needles and a real tree smells so good. (The tree can also be used to build a cross for Easter.) There are many "traditions" as to when the tree goes up. Some people put the tree up the first Saturday after Thanksgiving, or the first weekend in December, or maybe Christmas Eve. (Did I hear you say that it goes up when you get the time?) And what is a tree without decorations? Some interesting "Williamsburg traditions" are stringing popcorn and stringing fresh cranberries. (I don't have the patience for that!) They also decorate with hand-painted sand dollars or sea shells, hand-carved and hand-painted wooden ornaments and they put bows on the tree. The tree almost looks like a Christmas

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package itself? Hanging candy canes (representing the shepherd's crook), decorating with tiny white lights or colored lights, and hanging the children's ornaments from school are other familiar sights. And the star placed at the top of the tree symbolizes the star that shone in Bethlehem so many years ago. We don't stop there with the decorating ritual. We hang a wreath on the door, (in Williamsburg it's a fresh fruit and nut wreath), we put out luminars and we hang mistletoe hoping to sneak a kiss from a special friend. We decorate with lights and greenery, Christmas figurines, and we hang our stockings by the fireplace. Some other familiar traditions are to send Christmas cards, burn a Yule log, go Christmas caroling, bake goodies and exchange them with friends and neighbors, or reading "Twas the Night Before Christmas" and "The Christmas Story". Our family enjoyed driving around the neighborhood looking at the decorations, going by the church to see the live nativity scene, lighting a family Advent Wreath, visiting the shut-ins, and attending the Christmas Eve services at our local church.

Gifts, the gifts! Some families go to any extreme (and expense) to have beautifully wrapped presents under the tree. An interesting tradition I found is

to use newsprint to wrap the packages and have the kids use water-colored markers to decorate them or use finger-paint. Of course this task needs constant and constructive supervision. We wouldn't want "World War III" to start because Johnny copied Susie's "original" design or you didn't have two red or green markers. Some families exchange only hand-made gifts. (If you're a "Klutz" like me someone would change that tradition fast!) Opening the presents is another story. Some "dainty darlings" open only one gift at a time while everyone else watches as each individual gift is opened or they open a gift each and admiringly praise each other's gift and "ooo" and "aah". Then there are the "B-40 bombers" who make the hours of selecting and wrapping each gift a total waste of energy and effort. They open all their gifts in fifteen seconds, play with each gift for five-to-ten minutes (leaving one toy in every room of course!), and then they go play with "Tommy or Tammy next door".

Remember your first Christmas play? Christmas can't go by without making a costume for a production at school or church. It's amazing how some "saint of a director" makes twenty to thirty wiggly boys and girls instant angels and puts on a beautiful Christ-

mas pageant. Then there are Christmas bazaars to attend and parades your kids have to see for the tenth year in a row. You also pull out the popcorn popper so you can indulge yourself while you watch "White Christmas," "A Christmas Carol," "Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer," "the Nutcracker Suite," "Frosty the Snowman," . . .

Don't forget Gramma! Everyone has to pile in the car and sing "Jingle Bells" a hundred times driving to Gramma's house. But the food is so good! There's nothing like digging into a plate full of turkey and ham with all the trimmings or drinking egg nog and eating fruit-cake or pecan pie by a warm fire with cluttered sounds of children laughing and playing. Maybe distance prevents us from seeing our relatives every Christmas so the big gathering at Gramma's is a week filled with games of checkers or touch football, bouncing babies on our knees and reading bedtime stories to all the little ones, or catching up with one another and reminiscing over childhood memories.

Christmas; it's Jesus' birthday. What a beautiful gift to the world He is! It's wonderful how His birthday makes everyone so happy. God bless you this holiday season and may your Christmas traditions bring happiness, peace, joy, and love through the years. □



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